

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Factors Affecting Supply and Troop Movements
in the USSR/Military Traffic Control

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1. 50X1
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- the poor road system in the USSR would appreciably hinder the operations of mechanized forces. In any case, the Soviet Army was forced to mechanize to cope with the mobility of Western armies. The road network as a factor was insignificant.
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- the feeling is that an invading force would also be hampered by the poor roads, perhaps more so than the Soviets, who are familiar with the characteristics of their own terrain and are masters of improvisation.
3. 50X1
- Present Soviet road construction is limited to repair of existing highways, strengthening bridges, and surfacing a few dirt roads.
4. 50X1
- The distance maintained between the motor vehicles of a Soviet motorized column depends on speed and visibility. For example, in fog the distance is narrowed; in clear weather it is lengthened. Normally, under average conditions, the distance is 25 meters.
5. 50X1
- In a 24-hour period, considering the infantry marches a total of 10 hours, the normal distance covered is 25-30kms. In a forced march the distance covered is 50kms.

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6.

Heavy howitzers, hauled by track transport, travel at 15-20 kilometers per hour. On a normal march (10 hours) the total distance covered is 150-200kms. On a forced march averaging 20-25kms per hour the distance covered, in 12 hours, is 240-300kms.

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7.

Truck transported infantry travel at the same speed as the trucks pulling heavy artillery (howitzers).

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8.

In a tank regiment consisting of three battalions, the supply elements follow approximately one km behind the tank units. Supply elements of a marching column, on the approach march to the front, are situated in the rear of the unit which they are to supply.

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9.

Each regimental headquarters company contains a traffic control platoon of five men. When approaching the front, the traffic control platoons direct traffic and mark the roads within the regimental area. Traffic control in the zone of interior is organized by VAD (Military Auto Highway). VAD is under the control of an army or army group. VAD organizes traffic control, guards bridges, and checks documents over designated military highways usually 200-300kms in length. The Soviet women, who were used widely during World War II for traffic control, were generally employed by VAD.

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